



Washington, D.C. 20505

25 June 2019

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 49653  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Reference: F-2018-01025

Dear Ms. Best:

This is a final response to your 27 February 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for **files relating to the programs MHALPHA, MHASHA and MHVAPOR, which are related to the MHCHAOS program.** We processed your request in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 3141, as amended.

We completed a thorough search for records responsive to your request and located a document, consisting of one page, which we determined can be released in its entirety. A copy of the document is enclosed at Tab A.

We also determined that three documents, consisting of seven pages, can be released in segregable form with deletions made on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and/or (b)(3). Copies of the documents and an explanation of exemptions are enclosed at Tab B. Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(l) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

Please note, MHASHA is actually MHPASHA. We wish to also advise you that there are documents containing these words that were reviewed and released pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Act of 1992 ("JFK Act"). The Agency transferred these records to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in compliance with the JFK Act. You may wish to submit a request to NARA at the following address to obtain the most complete set of records on these subjects:

JFK Assassination Records Collection  
National Archives at College Park  
8601 Adelphi Road

College Park, MD 20740-6001

If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact us at:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
703-613-3007 (Fax)

Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may reach CIA's FOIA Public Liaison at: 703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline)

The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
202-741-5770  
877-864-6448  
202-741-5769 (fax)  
[ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Contacting the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Lilly  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

# **TAB A**

**SECRET**

19 AUG 1967

TAB B

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, RID

SUBJECT : Special Handling of Correspondence on  
Project MHALPHA

1. It is requested that all field correspondence bearing the slug MHALPHA be delivered unopened to the Chief of the area division concerned.

2. The Division Chief will be responsible for disseminating information copies to Chief, CI Staff and the Deputy Director for Plans.

151

Deputy Chief  
Counter Intelligence Staff

APPROVED:

151

Deputy Director for Plans

Date

cc: DDP



**TAB B**

## Explanation of Exemptions

### **Freedom of Information Act:**

- (b)(1) exempts from disclosure information currently and properly classified, pursuant to an Executive Order;
- (b)(2) exempts from disclosure information which pertains solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Agency;
- (b)(3) exempts from disclosure information that another federal statute protects, provided that the other federal statute either requires that the matters be withheld, or establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld. The (b)(3) statutes upon which the CIA relies include, but are not limited to, the CIA Act of 1949;
- (b)(4) exempts from disclosure trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is obtained from a person and that is privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) exempts from disclosure inter-and intra-agency memoranda or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) exempts from disclosure information from personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- (b)(7) exempts from disclosure information compiled for law enforcement purposes to the extent that the production of the information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings; (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication; (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source or, in the case of information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source ; (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger any individual's life or physical safety;
- (b)(8) exempts from disclosure information contained in reports or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, or on behalf of, or for use of an agency responsible for regulating or supervising financial institutions; and
- (b)(9) exempts from disclosure geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.



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MESSAGE FORM  
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SAC SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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INFO: FILE VR

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(edit) (reference number)

**SECRET**

CITE DIRECTOR

15037

ESPIONAGE. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS ANY  
EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN DIRECTION, CONTROL,  
TRAINING, OR FUNDING.

B. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN  
ASSIGNED TO CHIEF WOMUSE AND THE FOLLOWING  
SPECIAL HANDLING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN  
ESTABLISHED. ALL CABLES AND DISPATCHES ON THIS  
SUBJECT WILL BE SLUGGED RYBAT MHCHAOS WHICH  
LIMITS DISTRIBUTION TO CHIEF WOMUSE, CHIEF AREA  
DIVISION CONTROLLING STATION AND CHIEF AND  
ASSISTANT CHIEF WOMACE ON EYES ONLY BASIS. NO  
OTHER ACTION INDICATORS SHOULD BE USED. DISPATCHES  
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO CHIEF WOMUSE (2 COPIES),  
INFORMATION CHIEF AREA DIVISION. NO LATERAL  
FIELD DISTRIBUTION SHOULD BE MADE UNLESS HQS  
SPECIFIES AND NO MENTION OF MHCHAOS OR REFERENCE:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

**SECRET**GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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(classification)

(date and time filed)

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(reference number)**SECRET**

CITE DIRECTOR

TO

TO MHCHAOS CABLES OR DISPATCHES SHOULD BE  
MADE IN NON-MHCHAOS TRAFFIC. ANY DISSEMINATION  
OF MHCHAOS INFORMATION WILL BE SPECIALLY  
HANDLED AT HQS. COS (COB) SHOULD MAINTAIN  
MHCHAOS TRAFFIC ON EYES ONLY BASIS UNDER HIS  
PERSONAL CONTROL AND DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER  
SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN WITH PERSONS FROM HQS  
OR OTHER STATIONS EXCEPT ABOVE MENTIONED  
RECIPIENTS OF TRAFFIC, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY  
AUTHORIZED BY HQS.

C. MHALPHA AND MHPASHA SLUGS HAVE BEEN  
SUPERSEDED BY MHCHAOS AND SHOULD NO LONGER BE  
USED.

5  
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3  
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1

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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AUTHOR:  
GSI

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(file) (reference number)

**SECRET**

CITE DIRECTOR

2. IT IS REQUESTED THAT EACH BASE CHIEF DISCUSS SUBJECT MATTER PARA 1 A ABOVE WITH HIS LNERGO COUNTERPART. LOCAL LNERGO REP SHOULD BE URGED TO REFER TO HIS HQS ANY LEADS WHICH WOFIRM COULD EXPLOIT ABROAD, INCLUDING BGERET TRAVEL. BASE SHOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY REPORT TO HQS WHERE FORMAL COORDINATION WITH LNERGO WILL BE UNDERTAKEN.

C/DO

C/WH/COG

C/WH

DC/CI

DDP

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25 June 1968

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PER SOP # 127 (E. O.)

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25 22 57, 1968

CITE DIRECTOR

111227

RYBAT MHALPHA/MHPASHA

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

FROM DESMOND

1. RECENT HIGH-LEVEL WOFIRM/LNERGO DISCUSSIONS HAVE UNDERSCORED THE NEED FOR INCREASED COVERAGE OF THE ACTIVITIES ABROAD OF MHALPHA/MHPASHA INDIVIDUALS. PRIMARY INTEREST IS EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN GUIDANCE, CONTROL, TRAINING, OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

2. HQS APPRECIATES REPORTING ALREADY RECEIVED (PARTICULARLY [REDACTED]) BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE MUST NOW TRY TO ENGAGE CERTAIN LIAISON SERVICES MORE FULLY IN COVERAGE OF THIS TARGET. IN VIEW OF RECENT DISORDERS IN

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[REDACTED] IT APPEARS LIKELY YOUR LIAISON SERVICE MAY BE UNDERTAKING INCREASED COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUALS OF LIKE PERSUASION IN THEIR AREAS WHICH COULD CONSIDERABLY ASSIST US IN MONITORING CONTACTS OF WOLADY CITIZENS. FURTHERMORE, [REDACTED] YOUR LIAISONS CAN AND DO

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)OF COVERING [REDACTED] *Flap A*GROUP 1  
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downgrading and  
declassification+ each section  
(a)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

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EYES ONLY

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(b)(1)

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

AUTENTICATING  
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INITIAL  
(reference number)

DATE

CITE DIRECTOR

11227

TO THESE TARGETS WHICH MAY PRODUCE FIRM DATA ON FOREIGN INFLUENCE.

3. PLEASE EXPLORE THIS MATTER WITH YOUR LIAISON, EMPHASIZING THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT BLOC SERVICES WILL TAKE WHATEVER ADVANTAGE THEY CAN OF THIS SITUATION. WOULD APPRECIATE CABLED REPORT OF RESULTS YOUR DISCUSSIONS.

4. *(u37049)*  
5091 DULY NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION, AND WE  
WELCOME "DIALOGUE" SUGGESTED. (b)(1)  
END OF MESSAGE. (b)(3)

DDP

C/EUR

DC/CI

(b)(3)

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COORDINATING OFFICER

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EYES ONLYC200FT  
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OFFICER

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COPY 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

17 August 1967

FMW C

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Cable Secretary**SUBJECT** : Cable Distribution for Sensitive  
Project MHALPHA

1. A newly established project will bear cable indicators RYBAT MHALPHA. Please limit distribution on cables with the MHALPHA indicator to the following recipients:

... Action: Chief of the area division controlling the station or base involved. (Eyes Only) (Two copies)

Information: Chief, CI Staff (Eyes Only) (Two copies)

~~cc:~~ ADDP (Eyes Only)

2. Please mail copies of these cables to the recipients in envelopes marked "Eyes Only".

3. Please refer any questions concerning this procedure to Richard Ober, CI/OP/DC,

(b)(3)

*151*

Deputy Chief  
Counter Intelligence Staff

cc:DDP

